

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 3NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
1 October 1980

Gov has 12M plan for war on heroin

By RICHARD ESPOSITO

Standing before about 1,000 cheering ex-junkies in a Manhattan park often called an open-air drug market, Gov. Carey declared war on heroin today and said that he wants to impose an additional state tax on alcohol to finance it.

He said the "war" would cost \$12 million more than the state spends now.

"We are mobilizing for war," Carey said. "No part of New York belongs to these parasites (heroin dealers)."

The state, he said, currently spends \$60 million a year—while the federal government spends another \$25 million in New York State—to combat drug traffic and abuse. He intends, he said, to ask a scheduled special legislative session in November for a "minuscule" tax on alcohol to boost the spending.

"WE'RE GOING TO tax booze a little bit to save lives," he said, but he did not spell out the size of the tax bite.

Carey also said he would leave immediately for Washington to ask the Congress to help finance his crusade against drugs. He said he wants Washington to consider the drug problem a national emergency.

Carey spoke in Bryant Park, behind the Public Library, before a crowd that included about 1,000 former addicts who were bused to the park from various drug treatment agencies. Many carried signs reading, "Carey cares" and "Carey is in our corner."

The park is described by cops as a junkies' hangout where drug dealing is often carried out publicly.

INCLUDED IN THE new spending plans are an advertising campaign to make people aware of the problem, at a cost of \$100,000, and improving prison

detoification programs, at a cost of \$200,000 at Rikers Island and \$100,000 at the state prison in Ossining.

Carey also said he would earmark \$50,000 to clean up Bryant Park itself.

Later, in a tour of Daytop Village, a drug rehabilitation program next to the park at W. 40th St., Carey called his war on drugs the most important thing he has done since he became governor.

In earlier speeches on the problem, Carey repeatedly said that the Soviet Union was pushing the heroin traffic to the United States. When asked about the Soviet influence today, he said, "I know it's happening." When asked to substantiate this, he replied, "That's the job of the CIA."